

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A tool management method executed by an intermediate tool server apparatus coupled with a remote client system and a tool via a network, comprising the steps of:

receiving a first request from the remote client system via the network;

determining a first type of said first request based at least in part on a first predetermined field contained in said first request; and

sending a first message to the tool in response to said first request and said first type, wherein said first message is operable for controlling an action of said tool;

wherein the remote client system comprises a user interface to the tool utilizing a Web browser.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of determining an identification of a tool object corresponding to the said tool using a second predetermined field in said portion of said request.

3. (Canceled).

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising the steps of:

receiving a second message from the said tool associated with said first action; and
caching said second message.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 4 further comprising the steps of:

receiving a second request from the remote said client system via the said network;
retrieving said second message; and
generating a response to said second request using said second message.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 5 further comprising the step of sending said response to the remote said client system.

7. (Canceled).

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising the steps of:

receiving a connection request from the remote ~~said~~ client system; and

opening a connection to the remote ~~said~~ client system, said connection being operable for communicating requests and responses to said requests.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising the steps of:

receiving a second request from the remote ~~said~~ client system via the ~~said~~ network, said second request selected from the group consisting of information requests, expand requests and edit requests, wherein,

in response to said information requests, an HTML page is generated using a set of selected data for a tool object corresponding to a managed tool for sending to the remote ~~said~~ client system,

in response to said edit requests, an HTML page is generated having a portion operable for user entry of one or more values for modifying a tool object attribute for sending to the remote ~~said~~ client system, and

in response to said expand requests an HTML page is generated using a set of child object names and relations to a parent object identified in said expand request for sending to the remote ~~said~~ client system.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein said first type of said first request denotes an execute request.

11. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said step of sending said first message is in response to execution of a tool object method identified in said first request.

12. (Original) The method of claim 11 further comprising the step of overriding said tool object method.

13. (Original) The method of claim 12 wherein said step of overriding said tool object method comprises the steps of:

parsing a script source;

determining if said script source includes a method signature matching a method signature of said tool object method; and

if so, executing a corresponding portion of said script source.

14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein said first request is transferred in accordance with the hypertext transfer protocol (HTTP), and said portion corresponds to a uniform resource locator (URL).

15. (Currently Amended) A data processing system comprising:

circuitry operable on a tool server for receiving a first request from a remote client system via a network;

said circuitry operable for determining a first type of said first request based at least in part on a first predetermined field contained in said first request; and

said circuitry operable for sending a first message to a tool in response to said first request and said first type, wherein said first message is operable for controlling an action of the said tool;

wherein the remote client system comprises a user interface to the tool utilizing a Web browser.

16. (Currently Amended) The data processing system of claim 15 further comprising the circuitry for determining an identification of a tool object corresponding to the said tool using a second predetermined field in said portion of said request.

17. (Canceled).

18. (Currently Amended) The data processing system of claim 15 further comprising:

circuitry operable for receiving a second message from the said tool associated with said first action; and

circuitry operable for caching said second message.

19. (Currently Amended) The data processing system of claim 18 further comprising:

circuitry operable for receiving a second request from the remote said client system via the said network;

circuitry operable for retrieving said second message; and

circuitry operable for generating a response to said second request using said second message.

20. (Currently Amended) The data processing system of claim 19 further comprising

circuitry operable for sending said response to the remote ~~said~~ client system.

21. (Currently Amended) The data processing system of claim 15 further comprising:

circuitry operable for receiving a connection request from the remote ~~said~~ client system;
and

circuitry operable for opening a connection to the remote ~~said~~ client system, said connection being operable for communicating requests and responses to said requests.

22. (Currently Amended) The data processing system of claim 15 further comprising:

circuitry operable for receiving a second request from the remote ~~said~~ client system via the ~~said~~ network, said second request selected from the group consisting of information requests, expand requests and edit requests, wherein,

in response to said information requests, an HTML page is generated using a set of selected data for a tool object corresponding to a managed tool for sending to the remote ~~said~~ client system,

in response to said edit requests, an HTML page is generated having a portion operable for user entry of one or more values for modifying a tool object attribute for sending to the remote ~~said~~ client system, and

in response to said expand requests an HTML page is generated using a set of child object names and relations to a parent object identified in said expand request for sending to the remote ~~said~~ client system.

23. (Previously Presented) The data processing system of claim 15 wherein said first type of said first request denotes an execute request.

24. (Original) The data processing system of claim 15 wherein said step of sending said first message is in response to execution of a tool object method identified in said first request.

25. (Original) The data processing system of claim 24 further comprising circuitry operable for overriding said tool object method.

26. (Original) The data processing system of claim 25 wherein said circuitry operable for overriding said tool object method comprises:

circuitry operable for parsing a script source;

circuitry operable for determining if said script source includes a method signature matching a method signature of said tool object method; and

circuitry operable for executing a corresponding portion of said script source, if so.

27-38. (Canceled)

39. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising the steps of:

receiving a second request from the remote ~~said~~ client system via the ~~said~~ network; and

generating an HTML page using a set of selected data for a tool object corresponding to a managed tool for sending to the remote ~~said~~ client system in response to said second request.

40. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 39 wherein said HTML page has a portion operable for user entry of one or more values for modifying a tool object attribute.

41. (Currently Amended) The data processing system of claim 15 further comprising:

circuitry operable for receiving a second request from the remote ~~said~~ client system via the ~~said~~ network; and

circuitry operable for generating an HTML page using a set of selected data for a tool object corresponding to a managed tool for sending to the remote ~~said~~ client system in response to said second request.

42. (Previously Presented) The data processing system of claim 41 wherein said HTML page has a portion operable for user entry of one or more values for modifying a tool object attribute.

43-44. (Canceled)

45. (Previously Presented) The data processing system of claim 15 wherein said first request is transferred in accordance with the hypertext transfer protocol (HTTP), and said portion corresponds to a uniform resource locator (URL).

46. (Canceled).